

of three regiments each. If given a free hand, I render it, *I* am certain, as formidable a body of horse that is, of soldiers such as those of Sheridan, Forest and Stuart, as has ever been seen. In order to make it and formidable, and to prepare it in the shortest time, *I* would need to choose my own officers. To follow any other course would be to risk losing half, or possibly all, of the efficiency of the force. I have my brigadiers, colonels, and in many cases majors and captains already in mind, and they would be men under whose organization could be pushed to very rapid completion, while the ranks would be immediately filled to overflowing with men, every one of whom would be already a horseman and rifleman able to live in the open and care of himself."

Throughout the year 1911 the pressure upon Roosevelt by his most zealous followers to run as a candidate for the Presidency in 1912 steadily increased. He was greatly disturbed by this as two letters that he wrote to me at Panama in December show very clearly:

December 13,  
1911.

"As for the nomination, I should regard it from my standpoint as little short of a calamity. I not merely do not want it, but if I honorably can, I desire to it. On the other hand, I certainly will not put myself in a position which would make it necessary for me to shirk a duty if it came unmistakably as a plain duty. As

yet *I* am not convinced that it will so come,  
and, on the con-  
there is practically little or no chance of it.  
I not be a candidate in any ordinary  
sense of the word,  
and my judgment is that the Federal office  
holders together  
the conservative people will give Taft the  
nomi-  
At any rate, as far as I am concerned, my  
anxieties  
are in order: first, not to be nominated  
if it can honor-  
be avoided, and, second, if nominated, to have  
it made  
that it is in response to a genuine popular